

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

My primary concerns are:

1. That the Commission addresses the increased availability of outlets within the designated radio and television spectra, made possible by vastly improved broadcast and receiver technology, so that locally owned and operated stations have increased access.
2. That efforts to increase minority representation are increased.
3. That conglomerations are taxed based on local market representation so that access is equally affordable for small broadcasters and large, commercial chains.
4. That websites are not counted toward media diversity since they are not broadcast in the same sense as radio and television signals and since they are not nearly as widely available as broadcast media, radio in particular. Furthermore, broadcast media -- radio in particular -- are extremely important to our democracy since unlike internet use, their use is not be monitored by the government and listenership and participation in a variety of viewpoint exchange is unlikely to be curbed by fear of government overreaching. Additionally, traditional broadcast outlets remain uniquely important in the event of national or local crisis, such as that arising from catastrophe or terrorist attack, for example.